

Character: *I admire men of character. And I judge character not by how men deal with their superiors, but mostly how they deal with their subordinates.* —Norman Schwarzkopf, U.S. army general, 1934 -

Regional Roundup

HED receives two merit awards for design

USACE announced in November that HED was the recipient of two merit awards in the 1998 Chief of Engineer Design and Environmental Awards Program. The first was to the design firm of Environmental Chemical Corporation for the clean-up of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated soil in Tanapag Village on the island of Saipan in the Northern Marianas, west of Honolulu in the Pacific. In the 1960s, the village received Army-surplus ceramic capacitors which contained oil contaminated with PCBs. They were used freely about the village as driveway and property markers, sports field poles, and as graveyard headstones. A new "ex-situ" thermal desorption process was used to treat 1,700 tons of contaminated soil and debris at this remote site, according to the awards program brochure.

The second award was made to the design firm of Cedric D.O. Chong and Associates for the repair of a 3,000-ton air conditioning chiller system at Tripler

Army Medical Center in Honolulu. The old chillers operated on R-12, an ozone depleting refrigerant, and were inefficient

and inadequate for the needs of the hospital. The new system uses "environmentally friendly" R-123 chillers and is expected to save more than \$278

thousand per year in energy and maintenance costs. The awards program brochure said that the project is "commended for accommodating an extremely tight schedule and budget, as well as for its implementation without disrupting the operation of the facility."



(Above from left) David Cavagnol, Program Manager, Environmental Chemical Corp.; Joel Yuen (center), Vice-pres., Cedric Chong and Assoc.; Cedric Chong (right), Pres., Cedric Chong and Assoc. Photos by Jim Dung.

Ligh, Awada recognized for USACE planning support

Two POD employees were recognized recently for their work as members of the USACE Corps-wide Scenario Based Strategic Planning Workgroup from September 1997 through July 1998.

In November ceremonies at USACE headquarters in Washington, Jim Ligh, HED chief of Information Management, received the Meritorious Civilian Service medal, and Wendell Awada, HED chief of Acquisitions and New Technology,

received the Superior Civilian Service medal.

Ligh was cited for leading a sub-group and for facilitating collaboration among participants on the Workgroup's "interactive" Internet site. Awada was recognized for his workgroup participation.

Their involvement required near-monthly attendance in scenario-based planning sessions in Washington besides Internet correspondence and was additional to their regular duties. Each medal carried with it a cash award.

Contractors' concerns...

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"We appreciate the numbers (indicating) a large amount of business is going to local firms," one union representative commented. "But we want 100 percent of the business, not just most of it."

Lt. Col. Wally Walters, Honolulu District Commander, testified broadly for both the Corps and the Army at large in Hawaii. He reported that his district last year awarded 81 percent of its construction contracts to local firms, representing about 63 percent of the total construction dollar value. Additionally, he said HED awarded design contracts where 95 percent

of the money went to local firms.

Walters agreed with other military contracting representatives that although the law stipulated the local hiring requirement, it was purposely vague with regard to what constituted "local."

"We have developed our own criteria that leans heavily on addresses and office locations to determine local firms and local labor," he said. "Without an exact definition within the law itself, it's what we have to go by."

The half-day session ended with modest agreement and a list of issues for further study. A late-December follow-up session will continue the discussion.

"We will continue to work closely with local firms, the local legislature and local citizens to insure fair competition," Walters said in concluding his testimony.